

§ 1203.7

part and its applicability to the program under which the recipient received Federal financial assistance, and make this information available to them in the manner, as ACTION finds necessary, to apprise the persons of the protections against discrimination assured them by title VI and this part.

§ 1203.7 Conduct of investigations.

(a) *Periodic compliance reviews.* ACTION may from time to time review the practices of recipients to determine whether they are complying with this part.

(b) *Complaints.* Any person who believes himself or any specific class of persons to be subjected to discrimination prohibited by this part may by himself or by a representative file with ACTION a written complaint. A complaint shall be filed not later than 180 days after the date of the alleged discrimination, unless the time for filing is extended by ACTION.

(c) *Investigations.* ACTION will make a prompt investigation whenever a compliance review, report, complaint, or other information indicates a possible failure to comply with this part. The investigation will include, when appropriate, a review of the pertinent practices and policies of the recipient, the circumstances under which the possible noncompliance with this part occurred, and other factors relevant to a determination as to whether the recipient has failed to comply with this part.

(d) *Resolution of matters.* (1) If an investigation pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section indicates a failure to comply with this part, ACTION will so inform the recipient and the matter will be resolved by voluntary means whenever possible. If it has been determined that the matter cannot be resolved by voluntary means, action will be taken as provided for in § 1203.8.

(2) If an investigation does not warrant action pursuant to paragraph (d)(1) of this section, ACTION will so inform, in writing, the recipient and the complainant, if any.

(e) *Intimidatory or retaliatory acts prohibited.* A recipient or other person shall not intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against an individual for the purpose of interfering with a right or privilege secured by section 601

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of title VI of this part, or because he has made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part. The identity of complainants shall be kept confidential, except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of this part, including the conduct of an investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder.

§ 1203.8 Procedure for effecting compliance.

(a) *General.* (1) If there appears to be a failure or threatened failure to comply with this part, and if the noncompliance or threatened noncompliance cannot be corrected by informal means, compliance with this part may be effected by the suspension or termination of or refusal to grant or to continue Federal financial assistance or by other means authorized by law.

(2) Other means may include, but are not limited to: (i) A reference to the Department of Justice with a recommendation that appropriate proceedings be brought to enforce the rights of the United States under a law of the United States (including other titles of the Civil Rights Act of 1964) or an assurance or other contractual undertaking, and

(ii) An applicable proceeding under State or local law.

(b) *Noncompliance with § 1203.5.* If an applicant fails or refuses to furnish an assurance required under § 1203.5 or otherwise fails or refuses to comply with a requirement imposed by or pursuant to that section, Federal financial assistance may be refused in accordance with the procedures of paragraph (c) of this section. ACTION shall not be required to provide assistance in that case during the pendency of the administrative proceedings under this paragraph. Subject, however, to § 1203.12, ACTION shall continue assistance during the pendency of the proceedings where the assistance is due and payable pursuant to an application approved prior to the effective date of this part.

(c) *Termination of or refusal to grant or to continue Federal financial assistance.* An order suspending, terminating, or